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2009 Environmental Stewardship Awards and the Mid Atlantic Certified Crop Advisor Award for Excellence presented at Delaware Ag Week

On January 21, the **Mid Atlantic Certified Crop Advisor Award for Excellence** and the **2009 Delaware Nutrient Management Program Environmental Steward** awards were presented at Delaware Ag Week in Harrington, Delaware.



Left to right: *Robert Baldwin, DNMC Commissioner, Michael Twining, Pam Thornburg, New Administrator of the Delaware Farm Bureau, Bill Vanderwende, Chairman, DNMC, Bill Rohrer, DDA Nutrient Management Program Administrator*

Congratulations to Michael Twining who received the Mid Atlantic Certified Crop Advisor Award for Excellence that was presented in Delaware for the first time. Twining, general manager of the Willard Ag Services Greenwood, Delaware fertilizer plant was selected by fellow crop advisors. Twining provides multiple services to his clients and agriculture throughout Delaware. He is currently the crop advisor for twelve clients. Prior to his role as general manager, Twining advised more than twenty-five different clients representing approximately 75,000 acres. As a consummate professional he extends his knowledge beyond his immediate clients to the professional development of the employees he manages. Michael Twining is a passionate, hard working leader for agriculture and his community.

Congratulations to Mary Bryan, owner and manager of the Mary Bryan Farm in Laurel, who received the top 2009 Environmental Stewardship Award. Bryan operates a 60,000 capacity poultry farm and grows poultry for Mountaire Farms. She received a lane sign, plaque, and a cash award of \$1,000. Bryan started growing chickens in 1983 and her farm is first class. She is passionate about the environment and agriculture. Other environmental stewardship nominees receiving a lane sign, a plaque, and awards of \$500 were:

- Matt Tull, owner and manager of Turtlecreek Farm in Seaford. Turtlecreek farm is a 150,000 capacity broiler farm and grows for Allen's Family Foods. Inc. Beyond water quality stewardship, Tull is currently coordinating with energy companies to hopefully establish solar and wind generation on his farm. Congratulations Matt Tull.

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- Ray Tull, owner and manager of Woodpecker Farm in Seaford. Woodpecker farm is a 194,000 capacity broiler farm and grows for Perdue Farms Inc. Beyond general environmental stewardship, Ray Tull has re-designed his farm by diverting all stormwater to a stormwater pond near his farm. Congratulations Ray Tull.

Each year since 2001, the Delaware Nutrient Management Commission (Commission) and the Delmarva poultry companies recognize a farmer or farmers whose stewardship and general farm practices contribute to the preservation of the environment, water quality, and overall farmland. The Commission, Allen Family Foods, Mountaire Farms of Delaware, and Perdue Farms implement the program that is funded by the poultry companies operating in Delaware and other agri-businesses. Since 2007, the Delaware Maryland Agribusiness Association has participated in the funding and the selection of awardees.



Left to right: *Bill Rohrer, Tom Brinson, Allen Family Foods, Inc., Matt Tull, Jeff Smith, Perdue Farms, Inc., Ray Tull, Steve Brittingham, Mountaire Farms of Delaware, Mary Bryan, Bobby Bryan, Beth Sise, Robert Baldwin, DNMC Commissioner, Bill Vanderwende, DNMC Chairman*

Bill Vanderwende, Commission Chairman, said, “The environmental stewardship award is a great opportunity to recognize excellence. Delaware farmers have a proud tradition of protecting our water quality and our environment by continuously implementing recognized best management practices and being active members of their communities.”

Bill Rohrer, Nutrient Management Commission Program Administrator said, “The environmental issues farmers are dealing with are greater than ever. It is important to remind everyone of the environmental excellence occurring throughout the state, such as these three poultry farms.”

The following criteria were considered for the award:

- General nature of the farming operation;
- Manure and mortality management;
- Best management practices;
- Farm management, innovation, biodiversity and wildlife management;
- Off-farm agricultural related activities;
- Aesthetics;
- Community involvement;
- Other environmental and agricultural awards.